

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



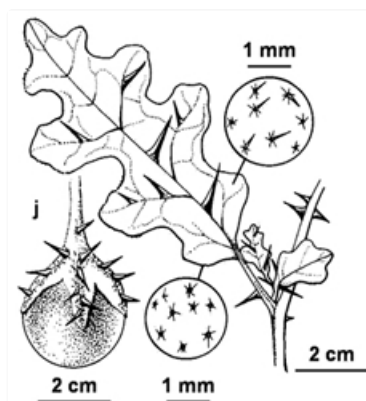
Flower and leaves. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer RCH Shepherd, Sorrento, Vic?



Fruit. Australian Plant Image Index, photographers RG & FJ Richardson, Clifton Springs foreshore, Vic



Fructing branches. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer RCH Shepherd, near Portland, Vic



Line drawings. j. leaves and flowers; fruit; surface detail. M.Moir, National Herbarium of Victoria, © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board

Common name

Apple of Sodom

Family

Solanaceae

Where found

Dry **forest**, **woodland**, grassy areas, disturbed sites, coastal environs, and creeklines. Coast and ranges north from Jervis Bay. Rarely elsewhere.

Notes

Introduced shrub to 2 m high. Prickles 3–15 mm long, yellowish, straight, abundant on stems, leaf stalks, both leaf surfaces, flower stalks, and **calyces**. Stems hairy with **stellate** hairs (needs a hand lens or a macro app on your phone/tablet to see) and some **glandular** hairs, green or purplish when young, turning brown or greyish and becoming woody with age. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, 2.5–15 cm long, 15–80 mm wide, upper surface sparsely stellate hairy, lower surface more densely stellate hairy, leaves usually deeply lobed, the lobes rounded to more or less triangular, margins wavy or further lobed. The upper flowers in each cluster often male, the lower flowers bisexual. Flowers purple to pale purple-blue, sometimes almost white, 15–35 mm in diameter, broadly tubular with 5 lobes, to star-shaped or pentagonal, in 3–6-flowered clusters. Flowers throughout the year. Fruit green with paler green or whitish mottling when young, yellow when mature, finally brown or black and wrinkled as they age, round, 20–35 mm in diameter.

Noxious weed Vic.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Solanum-linnaeanum> (accessed 7 February, 2021)

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This identification key and fact sheets are available as a free mobile application:



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